**MICROBREWERS HIT IT OUT OF THE PARK**
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Your essential daily news | MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015

High 4°C/Low -7°C Mainly cloudy

FACEBOOK/FREESALIMALARADI

Salim Alaradi has been held in a United Arab Emirates prison without charge for more than a year.

# FAMILY PLEA

**Ontario teen calls for father's release** metroNEWS

# Feds' presence at vigil marks shift

DAY OF ACTION

## Organizers say Grits are allies in anti-violence movement

Emma Jackson
Metro | Ottawa

Status of Women Minister Patty Hajdu was invited to speak at Ottawa's annual violence against women vigil Sunday night, a first for the long-running event and a departure from previous years as organizers feel the government is finally on their side.

The Dec. 6 vigil in Minto Park marks the National Day of Action on Violence Against Women and a reminder of the Montreal Massacre in which 14 women were killed 26 years ago. It also remembers local domestic violence victims from the past year.

Organizers usually focus on survivors rather than politicians, said long-time organizer Valerie Collicott. But with the Liberals now in power, she said, she believes the federal government is more like an ally.

The new government has promised to launch a national gender violence strategy and to call a public inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women.

Those promises — welcome after pushback from the Conservatives — prompted organizers to offer Hajdu a spot on the stage.

"We feel really strongly about having this government present," said Erin Leigh, executive director of the Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women.

In the past, local politicians and the Status of Women minister were always invited to attend, but "it didn't make sense" to give a Conservative minister a speaking role when calls for action fell on deaf ears, said Leigh.

Asking Hajdu to speak, said Collicott, was also an opportunity to hold the government to its word.

Hajdu was more than willing to be put on the spot. She said the public inquiry into violence against aboriginal women will be launched "in the weeks to come" and emphasized working with grassroots groups to get things done.

"It is the grassroots that push for policy change, so from my perspective I think it's important that a member of government hears and sees that work," she said.

Hajdu said the government will consult first with families and communities most deeply affected by missing and murdered aboriginal women, so they can help design and direct the inquiry.

"We really want it to be useful and valuable and set the stage for meaningful action," Hajdu said.

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Food and Christmas gifts among first U.S. shipment to the International Space Station in months.

# Rugby players tackle refugee crisis

CHARITY

## Group starts a campaign to raise $30,000

**Yazidi refugee children play with a rugby ball in Erbil, Iraq.** They are just a few of the many refugees that a group of Ottawa rugby players are looking to help by raising money at the Dubai Sevens. CONTRIBUTED

Four Ottawa rugby players who travelled to the United Arab Emirates over the weekend helped raise $20,000 for refugees at the Dubai Sevens rugby tournament.

The players travelled to the tournament to join a club of expats looking to raise money for refugees fleeing Iraq and Syria through a foundation called Rugby for Refugees.

"We always had the intention of going to the Dubai Sevens. We figured if we're going to do this, we might as well do it as a force for good," said Neil Young, an Ottawa Beavers player, who works for a logistics company in Iraq and founded Rugby for Refugees, ahead of the tournament.

Three other Ottawa rugby players — two from the Ottawa Beavers-Banshees RFC and one from the Barrhaven Scottish RFC — joined Young and others from around the world with varying degrees of ability and experience.

Based in Erbil — the capital of Iraqi Kurdistan — Young has helped to start a rugby club, called the Kurdistan Irregulars, where expats and a few locals play touch rugby two or three times a week.

Young, who spoke to Metroland Media in a phone interview from Dubai, realized his club could play a role in the refugee crisis after a group of more than 40 refugees moved into an unused construction site near the expat village where he lives in Erbil. The city has seen a huge influx of refugees as war has continued to destabilize parts of northern Iraq and Syria.

The refugees near Young's home were Yazidis, a religious and ethnic minority that has been persecuted and pushed out of its ancestral homes by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

"The ones that managed to escape to Erbil landed on our doorstep," Young said.

Since they arrived, the refugees have lived in ramshackle shelters and many of the children did not even have shoes to wear until recently, Young said.

> **"It was really a way of providing a bit of light fun for the kids, who are living in a rather dark existence at the moment.**
> Ottawa Beavers' Neil Young

The rugby club's members have since been engaged with some of the refugee children, providing rugby balls to throw around and teaching them a bit about the game.

"It was really a way of providing a bit of light fun for the kids, who are living in a rather dark existence at the moment," Young said.

Young said he figured more could be done and started Rugby for Refugees, which works in conjunction with the Rise Foundation, an organization that works with refugees in northern Iraq. The group's current campaign is focused on making sure refugees in the area have enough to make it through the winter.

Young hopes continue accepting donations in order to reach their $30,000 goal through the Dubai Rugby Sevens tournament, which ran from Dec. 3 to 5. For more information or to donate, visit rugbyforrefugees.com.

ALEX ROBINSON/METROLAND MEDIA

COMMUNITY

# Residents pitch in for Syrian families

Lucy Scholey
Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa has been pulling out all stops to welcome Syrian refugees, but surrounding communities are flinging open their own doors, too.

A Syrian family of six has a home waiting for them in Wakefield, Que., where a group of volunteers has been working to get everything lined up for a warm welcome.

And the surrounding community has been pitching in: In just two weeks since the fundraising efforts began, Wakefield for Refugees has raised more than $25,000 to help pay for food, clothing, and shelter for one year.

Their fundraising goal is $50,000, with the hopes of welcoming a second family.

"I think this is happening all across the country, but I have been particularly impressed with this region," said Darin Hayduk, a Wakefield for Refugees funding committee co-chair.

"People not only see the monetary donations, but we have been having dozens upon dozens of people offering all sorts of other goods and services."

Similar efforts are underway in nearby Chelsea, where the dentist has offered dental care for a family of four en route via Lebanon. They have Arabic translators lined up and a temporary house where the family can stay until they decide whether they want to set down roots in the community or elsewhere.

Both the Wakefield and Chelsea groups have been working with Accueil Parrainage Outaouais (APO), an organization that helps immigrants transition into Quebec society.

But it's still unknown when those families will arrive.

"That's probably the trickiest part of it all, just that waiting and not knowing," said Tricia Neill Steeves, a co-ordinator of Chelsea for Refugees. Finding lodging is tough when you don't know if the family arrives next week or in four months, she said.

Almonte is another small community that has been looking to welcome a few of the thousands of refugees fleeing civil war. Several groups are raising enough money to welcome five families, but are looking for help finding lodgings, translators, and drivers.

They have a Facebook page, should anyone want to pitch in.

There will be a fundraiser for the refugee resettlement effort in Wakefield at Kaffe 1870 on Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m.

A sign in Wakefield, Que., shows fundraising progress to welcome two Syrian refugee families. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

# 5 THINGS TO WATCH AT CITY HALL

City councillors will approve the 2016 budget this week, but they'll also be dealing with heritage issues as the Boyd house in Kanata goes up for designation and rezoning and city staff attempt to put out Stittsville's barn-demolition fire. But amid all the controversy councillors will also announce an "electrifying addition" to the Ottawa 2017 celebrations. **EMMA JACKSON** METRO

## 1 Money talks

The big thing this week, of course, is council's 2016 budget debate Wednesday, which will likely result in a two per cent tax hike and 2.5 per cent transit tax increase. While some councillors will nitpick, don't expect big changes. But do prepare for an OC Transpo debate, courtesy of Coun. Tobi Nussbaum's motion to freeze bus fares next year.

## 2 An electric circus

Ottawa 2017 organizers have amped up the suspense ahead of the mayor's monthly breakfast on Tuesday, which promises "a 150-second surprise" they say will "electrify" the 2017 Canada Day celebrations to a whole new level. Metro's Emma Jackson thinks Rush is coming. Wanna bet? Tweet us @metroottawa!

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## 3 Barn raiser (or not)

The Stittsville barn saga continues this Thursday as council will decide whether Richcraft can tear down the Bradley/Craig barn on Hazeldean Road and rebuild it at Saunders Farm 20 kilometres away. City staff don't want the heritage barn moved off the farmstead, but Richcraft wants to build a box-store mall where it stands.

## 4 Clearing the air

The Ottawa Board of Health will decide how to consider banning hookahs and e-cigarettes from all public property this Monday. The consultation plan includes surveying residents on the merits of a ban, talking to owners of vapour and hookah lounges and consulting community and health services groups.

## 5 Lansdowne lanterns

Create art for all ages at Lansdowne Park's monthly free workshop. This Wednesday, make tooled metal ornaments and lanterns – just in time for the holiday season – beginning at 6 p.m. Register at parc.lansdowne.park@ottawa.ca.

# The rifle and the puck

HOCKEY MARCHING TO WAR

## Exhibit shares hockey's early years amid the First World War

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

**Mario Della-Savia, outreach staff with the Hockey Hall of Fame**, shows off the Memorial Cup on Sunday at Library and Archives Canada on Wellington Street. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

Library and Archives Canada was inviting residents to "snap a selfie with a NHL trophy" this weekend, part of an effort to get residents out to a new exhibition focused on hockey history.

The exhibition opened October 29 and continues until January 22, but this weekend six NHL trophies were visiting the Archives, along with hockey experts from the Hockey Hall of Fame.

"The trophies are for the NHL, but there's also many military names that have been part of hockey," said Mario Della-Savia, who works as a travelling outreach spokesman for the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Hockey Hall of Fame lent the trophies to Library and Archives Canada to drive some additional traffic, but Della-Savia was encouraging visitors to read displays focused on the link between hockey and the First World War.

"I absolutely think it's terrific," he said. "It shows what a great connection military and hockey played in Canada."

The photos and archived documents tell the stories of the women and men who loom large in hockey history, and the way the war affected them.

"I thought it was really interesting, I didn't know Ottawa had such a history of women's hockey, especially," said visitor Chantal Lavigne. "That was definitely something I didn't know that I learned today."

"I think the hockey history has kind of been skimmed over. There isn't a focus on how men and women participated in the war and then hockey. It's really interesting, this is how it started," added Shannon Sweeney.

Coach Conn Smythe, for example, the man credited with starting the Toronto Maple Leafs, was a prisoner of war for over a year during the First World War.

Both Ottawa residents laughed when asked if they were regular visitors to the archives. It was a chance to see the trophies that brought them in — they said the exhibition was a bonus.

"They did a really good job with this," said Sweeney.

**MARCHING TO WAR**

The Archives' Hockey Marching To War exhibition continues until Jan. 22, 2016, although the trophies moved out Sunday afternoon.

**RECREATION SKATING, SKATING** The Sens Rink of Dreams fficially opened this weekend at city hall and James Richards, 8, Sophia Richards, 10, and Rose Basu, 10, were three of the first to hit the ice on Sunday. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

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**Paul Meek is co-owner of the Kichesippi Beer Company.** His will be one of two local operations to serve as exclusive suppliers at Can-Am ball games in Ottawa. CONTRIBUTED/KICHESIPPI BEER COMPANY

# Microbrewers hit a home run

BUSINESS

## Clocktower and Kichesippi sign deal with Champions

**David Sali**
Ottawa Business Journal

While the recent proposed consolidation of big beer companies has sparked concern among craft brewers that it will be even more difficult to get their products on tap at major sporting events, one Ottawa franchise believes fans would rather drink nothing but local suds at the ballpark.

The Ottawa Champions of baseball's independent Can-Am League this week announced a two-year extension of their agreement with a pair of local microbreweries, Clocktower and Kichesippi.

Under the new deal, which runs through the 2017 season, the two Ottawa companies will be the exclusive suppliers of beer at Champions home games. Coors Light, which was also sold at the stadium in the team's inaugural season, has been dropped from the roster.

Champions co-owner David Gourlay said the team's decision to go solely with local firms was a no-brainer.

"Clocktower and Kichesippi are household names in our community," he said.

"For me it was really critical from Day 1 … to have that community connection. We happen to live in a city that has a dynamic craft beer industry. There's so much selection and choice, and these are two of the best names in the industry locally."

The Champions' move sends a strong message, said Kichesippi founder Paul Meek.

"They basically listened to their fans," said Meek, who launched his brewery in 2010 and now sells more than half a million litres of beer annually. "The fans told them by their purchasing power that it was a big deal for them. Over 80 per cent of (beer sales at the stadium) was craft beer."

Global players such as Molson Coors have long used their financial heft to dominate the fields of sponsorship and distribution, making it difficult for small producers to break into the sports and entertainment markets.

"Traditionally, big companies merging to become even bigger companies tends to have a little bit of a chilling effect on innovation and small companies," Jason Fisher of the Indie Ale House in Toronto told the Canadian Press this week.

"You want to go to a sporting event, they own that venue. You want to go to a concert, they own that venue. You want to buy beer at a store, they own those too."

SABMiller recently agreed to a $107-billion US takeover by Anheuser-Busch InBev in a merger of the world's two largest brewers.

The deal would see Anheuser-Busch InBev control 31 per cent of the global beer market.

Molson Coors is poised to nearly double its size after agreeing to spend US$12 billion for SABMiller's share of U.S. joint venture Miller Coors and Miller's International brands, including those sold in Canada.

The big boys are only getting bigger, more powerful and even more likely to squeeze out the little guys, many observers say. That makes this week's deal with the Champions even more important, said Clocktower co-owner John Coughlan.

"The idea that you would never even get a foot in the door is a bit daunting," he said.

"As (the multinational brewers) get bigger, more and more control is exercised. It's very hard for people like us in the craft beer industry because most of us are in business to grow.

"Success is measured in growth. And now we're finding we just can't get in the door when we're competing against macro guys. But that's part of the excitement in the (Champions) opportunity."

As part of their contract, Clocktower and Kichesippi have agreed to work together on a new lower-alcohol beer to replace Coors Light at Champions games. Such a collaboration is a first for both companies, and they say they're ready for the challenge.

"It's going to be a lot of fun for us to work on in the spring," said Meek.

"We're working … on the concept. We definitely want to tie (the branding) into some Ottawa historical significances, so we're doing some research and looking into some stuff that we think would be appropriate."

Any sponsorship deal has elements of risk for both sides, Coughlan said, adding the partnership with the Champions has been nothing but positive for his company.

"There were no guarantees," he said.

"This was a new (team) in a sport that has struggled in Ottawa, but we believed that this was a good opportunity to expand the craft beer base. This is an audience that we don't always have a chance to reach.

"These guys (the Champions) went out on a limb. We're happy to have the extra exposure. It shows a good degree of faith in us."

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

**We happen to live in a city that has a dynamic craft beer industry.**
Champions co-owner David Gourlay

### THE WINNING FORMULA

**Beer, baseball and hotdogs**

The Ottawa Champions were the Kichessippi Beer Company's biggest customer during some weeks last summer.

"It's a major commitment on our part," said microbrewery co-owner Paul Meek. "But it makes sense for us and (fellow microbrewer) Clocktower to do that for our brand, for sure. You're looking at 55 home games, 112,000 people. It's a lot of people."

Champions co-owner David Gourlay said he's just giving the public what it wants.

"Beer, baseball and hotdogs, right? You can't mess with that formula. It's the core DNA of the game."

# Finding all the right answers

POLITICS

## Some helpful tips to survive endless hours of questioning

HOUSE HUMOUR

Chris Lackner
For Metro

**Prime Minister Justin Trudeau** will be on the receiving end during question period. Our House Humour columnist has some tips. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ah, question period. The place where "real change" and "collaborative" government goes to die. Or at least be seriously bored.

With a Throne Speech behind them, the Liberals are about meet a grim, daily reality. They have to answer questions again for the first time since 2006. Here are some survival tips:

Respond to every undesirable question with an Adele "Hello" parody.

Answer all attacks by making "puppy noises." Cheap trick? Sure. But a great contrast to Stephen Harper's pack of QP attack dogs.

Clowning around: Attend every QP in clown paint. Clowns are either beloved of feared. It's a win-win.

Picture everyone naked: It's an age-old trick, but it works. Getting nervous? Feel the heat? Just picture Tom Mulcair in his birthday suit. (He doesn't look so fearsome now, does he?)

Ask yourself: What would Paul Calandra do? Study QP footage of the ex-Tory MP to find your form. Then act like a jackass, curse often and evade all questions like the plague. Afterwards, cry out an apology. (Repeat as needed.)

Answer ALL questions with Drake lyrics. Examples: "Don't tell me, I don't care. If you hurt, I don't tell you, you don't care, if you're true," "Started from the bottom now we're here," "It's hard to do these things alone. Just hold on we're going home."

Book an "Angry Face Seminar" with former Tory minister John Baird. Nobody did it better.

To boost morale, play "We Are the Champions" whenever the Liberal cabinet enters the House.

Set a new "civil tone" by miming all delicate answers. (Note: Consult with an expert to figure out how to mime, "I deserve two nannies at the taxpayers' expense.")

> **Picture everyone naked: It's an age-old trick, but it works. Getting nervous? Just picture Tom Mulcair in his birthday suit. He doesn't look so fearsome now.**

Opposite Day: Dress up in masks of former Conservative ministers to throw the Tory Opposition for a loop. It will be a lot harder for them to stand up to Justin Trudeau when he's sporting Harper's permafrown.

And for all Tories and NDPers, here are some ways to pass your time on the opposition benches:

Create a Liberal "promise breaking" pool.

Torment the new Speaker: Every time a question is ruled out of order, have one of your MPs stand up and do an Al Pacino impersonation: "Out of order — I'll show you out of order!"

Brainstorm new nicknames for Trudeau. Examples: Young Trudeauwalker, T-doh, Trudamn, Injustice-tin etc.

Update your Ashley Madison profile.

Plan your zombie apocalypse exit strategy: How will you get out of Parliament when the undead rise again? (No, not the Bloc. Actual zombies).

Apply to be a third Trudeau nanny.

One word: spitballs!

UNION DISPUTE

## Four charged over taxi fracas

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

Four men in their mid-50s — none of whom are from Ottawa — have been charged with assault and mischief in relation to the storming of the Coventry Connections taxi dispatch centre last month.

Two of the men are executive members of the union.

The Nov. 13 incident began after a protest held by the Unifor Labour Union over increased airport pickup fees spilled into the dispatch centre.

The three men charged with breaking and entering are Robert Orr, 55, from Woodstock; John Harte, 56, of Meaford; and Roland Kiehne, 56, of Whitby.

Cary McMillan, 56, of Brantford, was charged with assault and mischief.

Ottawa police said further charges are pending.

According to Coventry Connections, some protesters covered security cameras and caused $75,000 in damage. They said three employees required medical attention.

Since the protest Coventry Connections has installed a metal fence around the building on Coventry Road in Overbrook and hired private security guards.

The labour dispute between drivers and the company started in mid-August when Coventry Connections and the airport authority imposed a higher airport pickup fee for airport taxi drivers, from $1.50 to about $5.

Last week Coventry's CEO and president, Hanif Patni, said negotiations were ongoing.

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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

# Teen urges Liberals to help release dad

An Ontario teen is calling on the new Liberal government to secure the release of her father, who has been languishing in a United Arab Emirates prison without charge for more than a year.

Marwa Alaradi has written to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and every MP on Parliament Hill asking for Canada to intervene in her family's ordeal.

"We want them to negotiate with the U.A.E., to understand what's going on," she told The Canadian Press in an interview. "I showed them that I need help."

Salim Alaradi, a 46-year-old Canadian of Libyan origin who was running a business in Dubai, was abruptly detained without explanation in August last year.

His daughter now hopes an intervention from the federal government may help set her father free.

"It's not a case of a criminal, my father did nothing wrong, he was a normal person."

Alaradi was born in Libya and immigrated to Canada from the U.A.E. in 1998, living in Vancouver with his family. He decided to return to the U.A.E. in 2007 to run a home appliance business with his brother.

He and his family were on vacation in the U.A.E. when he was arrested. For two months his family didn't know if he was dead or alive. They then found out he was being held at an Abu Dhabi prison, though they have never been told why.

The family's communication with Alaradi has been limited and they have expressed concerns that he is being mistreated behind bars.

> **"My father has been going through injustice for more than a year now.**
> Marwa Alaradi

Amnesty International has noted that Alaradi was among 10 men of Libyan origin reportedly detained in the U.A.E. at the same time.

A development this month, however, is being seen as a sign of progress. Alaradi was recently seen by a state-assigned lawyer and his file was transferred to the prosecutor general's office, marking what the family believes is the first sign of legal advancement in his case, his daughter said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Canadian Salim Alaradi and his son, Mohamed Alaradi are shown on a family vacation in the United Arab Emirates in a 2013 family photo.** THE CANADIAN PRESS

## IN BRIEF

**McKenna to serve as COP21 facilitator**

Federal Environment Minister Catherine McKenna has been named to a group of 14 international ministers who will serve as facilitators of the COP21 climate conference in Paris. The group was created to assist French Foreign Affairs Minister Laurent Fabius, the conference's president.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Clark says Trudeau legitimizing unaccountable Senate**

Christy Clark says the new process for appointing senators on merit will give legitimacy to an unelected, unaccountable upper house in which her province will remain grossly under-represented. B.C. gets only six senators in the 105-seat chamber, although it's the third largest province with a population of about 4.7 million. By contrast, the three tiny maritime provinces, with less than two million people combined, are entitled to 24 senators, as are Ontario and Quebec.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

**A motorist attempts to move his car in Halifax on March 18, 2015. Weather-related challenges will no doubt face many of the 25,000 Syrian refugees the federal government has committed to bring to Canada by early next year.** THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

# It's a shock to arrive in winter: Refugees

WEATHER

## Agencies collecting coats, gloves, hats, boots

It was a frigid February in 1985 when Getachew Woldeyesus arrived in Saskatchewan as a refugee.

The young man from Ethiopia stayed inside for two months.

"Because you don't know, is it slippery out there? Are you wearing the right shoes? It's freezing out there, so I was afraid to go out," Woldeyesus recalled in an interview with The Canadian Press.

Weather-related challenges will no doubt face many of the 25,000 Syrian refugees the federal government has committed to bring to Canada by early next year. Social agencies, church groups and private citizens across the country have been organizing donations of clothing with an emphasis on coats, gloves, hats and winter footwear.

Woldeyesus was 19 when he fled his home country in 1980 because of a civil war. He spent a few days in Sudan and a few years in Italy before finally being approved to resettle in Canada.

It was difficult to leave his family behind and make the dangerous journey.

When he finally got to Regina, Woldeyesus received support from the Regina Open Door Society. A volunteer mentor helped him get through the winter.

"The volunteer was more encouraging and he was more supportive. He was always with me and trying to show me how to dress properly for winter. Also, Open Door provided a lot of information so, using that, I was able slowly to go out," said Woldeyesus, who is now the society's manager of settlement and family services.

"The first winter was better. The second ... you started getting used to it. But of course it's shocking for the people to arrive in winter."

Ali Abukar agrees.

Abukar fled Somalia and lived in Egypt as a refugee before arriving in Canada in 2011. He lived in Ontario before moving to Saskatoon in the winter of 2013.

"I think what also made it very difficult for me was the wind chill," he said.

Abukar, who is now executive director at the Saskatoon Open Door Society, said sometimes refugees and immigrants don't know what clothes to wear in the winter.

"We bring nurses or people who can talk about the problems that people can get exposed to if they don't dress properly," said Abukar.

"And we even demonstrate how to dress up, how to put those extra layers to make sure that you don't have some of the wet parts of the weather sneak into your body."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

TRANSPORT CANADA INTELLIGENCE

# Report claims extremists could use peaceful demonstrations as cover

Intelligence officials are concerned that extremists might infiltrate peaceful anti-petroleum protests to "incite violence," a newly disclosed assessment indicates.

The federal analysis of threats to the passenger rail system introduces a new twist to the often tense debate over state scrutiny of environmental demonstrators — that otherwise harmless activists might unwittingly harbour dangerous terrorists.

The assertion — contained in a Transport Canada intelligence report — led one defender of civil liberties to ask whether there is evidence to support it.

"I do think it's dangerous to start painting activism as a potential cover for terrorist activities," said Cara Zwibel, director of the fundamental freedoms program at the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

The Canadian Press recently obtained a copy of the six-page, November 2014 analysis by Transport's security intelligence assessment branch through the Access to Information Act.

Overall, the assessment warns that surface transportation such as passenger rail is "a favoured target of terrorists" because attackers can inflict mass casualties, fear and economic harm using simple tactics — particularly improvised explosive devices.

But it also cites the prospect of violence by so-called domestic extremists — people on the left or right end of the spectrum motivated by various political, social, environmental and aboriginal issues. Possible attacks or sabotage against rail transportation "are of concern," the assessment says.

Zwibel is concerned that authorities could use the notion of infiltration as justification "to engage in surveillance or profiling of legitimate, non-violent activist groups."
THE CANADIAN PRESS

UNITED STATES

# Obama vows to beat terror threat

In a rare Oval Office address, U.S. President Barack Obama vowed Sunday night the United States would overcome a terror threat that has entered a "new phase" as he sought to reassure Americans shaken by recent attacks in Paris and California.

"I know that after so much war, many Americans are asking whether we are confronted by a cancer that has no immediate cure," he said, speaking from a lectern in his West Wing office.

Obama said that while there was no evidence that the shooters in the San Bernardino, Calif., attack were directed by a terror network overseas or part of a broader plot, "the two of them had gone down the dark path of radicalization."

He announced no significant shift in U.S. strategy and offered no new policy prescriptions for defeating the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), underscoring both his confidence in his current approach and the lack of easy options for countering the extremist group.

While Obama has spoken frequently about ISIL in recent news conferences and other events, the decision to speak in prime time reflected concern among his advisers that his message isn't breaking through. The White House has been particularly concerned about the heated rhetoric from Republican presidential candidates about Muslims.

Obama said, "We cannot turn against one another," but he also said radicalism has spread into some Muslim communities and has become a problem that Muslim leaders "must confront without excuse."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**U.S. President Barack Obama** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYRIA

# Airstrikes hit ISIL's de facto capital

Airstrikes hit several positions of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in its de facto capital of Raqqa, Syria, on Sunday, killing and wounding at least 32 people, opposition activists and social media pages loyal to ISIL said.

A Raqqa-based activist group that reports on ISIL, known as Raqqa is Being Slaughtered Silently, said warplanes struck ISIL positions but had no word on casualties.

A Facebook page used by ISIL supporters said the airstrikes were carried out by Russian warplanes while the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said they are believed to be from the U.S.-led coalition that began targeting ISIL in Syria in September 2014.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**People pay respects Sunday at a makeshift memorial honoring the victims of Wednesday's shooting rampage in San Bernardino, Calif.** JAE C. HONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# City calls for unity as it grieves its dead

SAN BERNARDINO

## Wife may have radicalized husband: investigators

At a church, a mosque, a makeshift street-corner memorial and other sites, they gathered Sunday to mourn the 14 victims of the San Bernardino, Calif., shooting massacre and lament that the community now joins the list of U.S. cities scarred by terrible violence.

Residents struggled to come to terms with the violence and hoped the community would unite in mourning and not be divided by the disclosure that the killers were a religious Muslim couple.

"It's unfortunate that we're on this list now, a list like Newtown, Aurora and others where such tragic events occurred," Rep. Pete Aguilar, D-Calif., told a crowd at a mosque. "It's not how I want San Bernardino remembered."

Meanwhile, investigators were looking into what led Tashfeen Malik and Syed Farook to attack the gathering of Farook's co-workers on Wednesday, in what appears to be the deadliest attack on American soil by Islamic extremists since 9/11.

Authorities were trying to determine if Malik, who was born in Pakistan and spent considerable time in Saudi Arabia, radicalized her American-born husband, Farook, and was the driving force behind the rampage, two officials said Sunday.

That possibility emerged late last week when it was disclosed that Malik had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group in a Facebook post about the time of the bloodbath at a holiday luncheon.

Malik, 29, and Farook, 28, were killed in a furious shootout with police hours after the attack.

On Sunday, scores of mourners visited a growing memorial on a corner near the social service centre where the shootings took place. There were American flags, a poster that read "Pray for the world," balloons, candles and cards. Many said they hoped the community would pull together.

"I'm trying to use it as a teaching thing for myself and for my children that horrible things happen, but it doesn't mean that everybody is a horrible person," said Eric Abrams, of San Bernardino.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANCE

# National Front leads regional elections, projections say

**Former French president and leader of Les Republicains party Nicolas Sarkozy and former first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy cast their ballots in Paris on Sunday.** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France's far right National Front won more support than any other party in the first round of regional elections Sunday, according to polling agency projections, in a new boost for Marine Le Pen's anti-immigration strategy and a new blow to President Francois Hollande's Socialists.

The projections put National Front candidates on top so far in six of France's 13 newly drawn regions. But Sunday's voting was only a first round, and some mainstream voters may steer away from far right candidates in the decisive Dec. 13 runoff.

The elections took place in an unusually tense security climate just over three weeks after deadly terrorist attacks on Paris — a climate expected to favour conservative and far-right candidates.

Voters are choosing leadership councils for the regions, and had the choice of several parties in the first round.

Polling agencies Ifop, OpinionWay and Ipsos projected the National Front won between 27 and 30 per cent support nationwide.

> **The verdict of the French people tonight is clear. We must hear and understand the deep exasperation.**
>
> Nicolas Sarkozy, Les Republicains party leader

The polling projections estimated the percentage of votes for different parties, not the number of seats they are expected to win on France's regional councils.

The number of seats will be determined in next Sunday's runoff, which pits the leading parties in each region against each other.

Sarkozy's conservative Republicans party and its allies were projected to come in second place in the national vote at around 27 per cent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TERRORISM

## Yemeni governor killed

A huge explosion killed the governor of Yemen's southern Aden province and six of his bodyguards on Sunday, security officials said, in an attack that was later claimed by a local Islamic State affiliate.

If true, it would be the most high-profile assassination carried out by the Islamic State group in Yemen. The war-torn country is home to what Washington considers the most dangerous al-Qaida offshoot, which controls parts of the country, mainly in the east and the south. However, the Islamic State's local affiliate has been stepping up its attacks lately, including an explosion at a mosque and targeted suicide car bombings.

Gov. Gaafar Mohamed Saad was travelling to his office Sunday when the explosion struck his convoy in the southern port city. Authorities are investigating the exact cause of the explosion. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media.

An ISIL affiliate claimed the attack in a statement circulated online by supporters, saying the bomb was concealed in a parked car along the convoy's route. The group referred to Saad as a "tyrant" and warned the "heads of the infidels" in Yemen that it would carry out "operations to chop off their rotten heads."

ISIL has claimed a series of bombings that killed 159 people and wounded 345 this year in Yemen, according to an AP count. That includes explosions in September targeting worshippers in a mosque in the capital Sanaa that killed more than 20 people, and suicide car bombings targeting exiled Yemeni officials and Saudi and Emirati troops which killed at least 15 people in Aden in October.

The extremists have been able to expand their reach in the chaos of Yemen's larger conflict, between a loose array of pro-government forces backed by a Saudi-led coalition and Shiite Houthi rebels, who control the capital, Sanaa, and large parts of northern Yemen. Pro-government forces drove the Houthis out of Aden earlier this year.

A local al-Qaida affiliate has exploited the chaos to seize territory in Yemen's south and east, and has a growing presence in Aden. On Saturday, masked gunmen in Aden killed a military intelligence official and a judge known for sentencing al-Qaida militants. No one claimed those attacks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# British airstrikes 'harmful,' 'illegal,' says Syrian president

MIDDLE EAST

### Co-ordination with ground forces needed to hurt ISIL

British airstrikes in Syria against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) are illegal and doomed to fail, Syrian President Bashar Assad said in remarks published Sunday.

Assad said in an interview with Britain's Sunday Times that ISIL cannot be defeated with airstrikes unless there is co-ordination with forces on the ground. His comments were carried by Syrian state news agency SANA on Sunday.

British warplanes began launching airstrikes in Syria on Thursday, hours after Parliament voted to authorize air attacks against ISIL targets there.

Assad has said the only airstrikes that have worked against ISIL are those carried out by Russia, which is co-operating with Syrian government forces. Syrian troops have captured areas from ISIL since Moscow began its air campaign on Sept. 30.

> **This is a new episode in a long series of (British Prime Minister) David Cameron's classical farce, to be honest.**
>
> Syrian President Bashar Assad

Assad mocked British Prime Minister David Cameron's claims that there are 70,000 moderate Syrian rebels on the ground.

"Let me be frank and blunt about this. This is a new episode in a long series of David Cameron's classical farce, to be very frank. This is not acceptable. Where are they? Where are the 70,000 thousand moderates that he is talking about?" Assad asked.

"That is what they always talk about: moderate groups in Syria. This is a farce based on offering the public factoids instead of facts," Assad said in the interview, which was conducted before the British Parliament authorized the attacks.

Speaking about the British airstrikes, Assad said they "will be harmful and illegal, and it will support terrorism as what happened after the coalition started its operation." Assad was referring to the U.S.-led coalition that began launching airstrikes against ISIL in Syria in September 2014. ISIL has lost territory in northern and central Syria since those strikes began, while expanding into other parts of the country.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Tycoon hosts mass wedding for 151 couples

With the brides dressed in traditional red and gold embroidered saris and the grooms wearing long tunics and turbans, 151 young couples tied the knot at a mass wedding in the western Indian state of Gujarat on Sunday.

The nuptials were hosted by Mahesh Savani, an Indian diamond trader who has been paying for the weddings of fatherless women in the city of Surat for several years.

"Only someone who has lost her father can understand how much a girl needs her dad on her wedding day," said Vimla Koringa, 27, as she waited for her wedding ceremony to begin.

Savani said he first stepped in to play the role of the father in 2008, when one of his employees died a few days before the weddings of his two daughters.

Every year since then, Savani has paid for the weddings of young women from poor families who have lost their fathers.

Weddings in India are expensive affairs, with the bride's family traditionally expected to pay the groom a large dowry of cash and gifts. Hundreds of people, mostly family members and neighbours of the couple, are hosted at lavish meals over a number of days, adding to the cost.

Savani said the wedding and gifts for the 151 couples would cost more than 50 million rupees ($1 million US), with around 100,000 guests joining in the three days of festivities that ended Sunday. The sprawling school ground where the mass wedding was held was decorated with flowers and lights.

"I see this as something sacred, so I am not counting the expense," Savani said.

The businessman, who has made his fortune in diamond trading and real estate, said he saw himself as a "foster father" to the young women. He gave each of the brides gold jewelry, clothes, and pots and pans to set up her new home, much like the dowry given in traditional Indian weddings.

The brides praised Savani's efforts.

"Ever since my father died two years ago, my mother has worried about my wedding and how to raise money for the expenses," said 23-year-old Meetal Gondalia. "Savani Papa has eased all her worries."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**1** Indian Muslim bride Nagmabegum Qadri during a group photo session.

**2** Indian diamond trader Mahesh Savani, top centre wearing white, poses for a group photo along with brides.

**3** A bride and a groom, centre, perform marriage rituals.

**4** Indian bride Mittal Gondaliya, centre right, and groom Pankaj Nasit perform wedding rituals.

**5** An Indian bride helps another with her attire.

PHAJIT SOLANKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**National Guard soldiers monitor a polling station** where a wall is covered with stencil paintings depicting the eyes of Venezuela's late President Hugo Chavez, during congressional elections in Caracas, Venezuela, Sunday. FERNANDO LLANO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Socialist rule on the line

VENEZUELA

## Election tests house that Chavez built

The socialist system built by Hugo Chavez faced its gravest electoral test Sunday as Venezuelans cast ballots in what seems to have become a tightening race for control of the national legislature.

Voters woke to state-sponsored fireworks and music in working-class parts of Caracas. Wealthier neighbourhoods, which tend to favour the opposition, were spared the early morning cacophony.

Venezuelans of all inclinations began lining up before polling stations opened, anxious to cast their ballots early in case violence should break out later in the day.

Until recently, the opposition was seen as coasting to its first major electoral victory since Chavez became president in 1998, with Venezuelans tired of rampant crime, routine shortages of basic goods and inflation pushing well into triple digits. The economic crisis has worsened with this year's slump in oil revenue, which funds almost all public spending.

But support for President Nicolas Maduro's rule, a good proxy in deeply polarized Venezuela, recently jumped 11 points, to 32 per cent in late November, according to a survey by respected local pollster Datanalisis. Analysts attributed the bounce to an aggressive government campaign of funnelling resources to key districts and warning voters that Chavez's legacy of social programs would be lost if the opposition took control of the National Assembly.

**160,000**

**Number of police and troops** deployed around the country ahead of the vote, but many citizens still fear postelection violence.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Douglas Flores was eager to vote for the ruling party out of gratitude for the house the government gave his family three years ago, allowing them to move out of a shack.

"I don't believe it when the opposition says they'll look out for the poor. Those guys were in power for years before Chavez came, and they never gave us a single thing," he said.

The opposition, with little cash and little access to broadcast media, has struggled to compete in far-flung rural districts against the government's campaign machine.

Still, even a small victory would provide an important lift to the frequently outmanoeuvred opposition. The socialist party has often touted its unbroken chain of electoral victories over the past 17 years to defend itself against allegations it's undemocratic.

The government drew criticism from the U.S. and other governments for tactics that appeared to tilt the playing field, including printing a confusing ballot with a mysterious party listed next to the opposition coalition with a nearly identical logo and name. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TERRORISM

## Outrage over Tube stabbing

Counter-terrorism police in Britain on Sunday investigated a stabbing at a London Underground station in which a man brandishing a knife injured two and reportedly said, "This is for Syria."

Police arrested a 29-year-old man late Saturday and said they are treating the "violent unprovoked knife attack" at east London's Leytonstone subway station as a "terrorist incident."

The force said it was searching a residential address in east London, but declined to say whether they were looking for other suspects.

British media widely reported that the suspect linked his actions to Syria after the attack. The incident comes just days after Parliament approved British airstrikes on Islamic State group targets in Syria.

One man suffered serious knife injuries and was in the hospital in stable condition. Another received minor injuries, while a woman was threatened but not hurt. Video shot by witnesses showed a pool of blood as the suspect lunged at several police officers. He was then pinned down after a stun gun was used.

One bystander can be heard shouting at the suspect: "You ain't no Muslim, bruv." The phrase, using slang for "brother," was quickly picked up by Twitter users who turned it into a trending hashtag to show their contempt for the suspect and extremism.

Britain's national terrorism threat level remains at "severe," meaning that authorities believe an attack is highly likely. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**"You ain't no Muslim, bruv."**
Witness to attack

MIDDLE EAST

## Kerry's Israel visit sparks debate on future

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry set off an uproar in Israel Sunday after warning that the country, through its West Bank occupation, will become a "binational state."

**John Kerry** THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The U.S., the international community and many Israelis have endorsed the "two-state solution" — establishing a Palestinian state and ending Israel's control over millions of Palestinians in territories occupied in the 1967 war.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared that "Israel will not be a binational state." Here's a look at various concerns:

### WEST BANK PULLOUT

Left-wing "dove" Israelis argue for pullout, because without one, Israel would no longer be a Jewish-majority democracy because half of its population in effect will be Palestinians, most of them without true democratic rights.

### NO PULLOUT

For some Jewish Israelis, the West Bank is literally the Promised Land. But the more common argument is rooted in security.

Without the West Bank, Israel would be about 10 miles (about 15 kilometres) wide at its narrowest point, with the West Bank surrounding Jerusalem on three sides. Meanwhile, Islamic radicals are on the march. They conclude that prudence requires holding onto the West Bank.

### THE IMPACT OF GAZA

Israel pulled troops and settlers out of the Gaza Strip in 2005 as part of a simple calculation: With the small but crowded territory neatly removed from the demographic equation, Jews still have a majority of 60 per cent. Meanwhile, the Palestinians and much of the world consider Gaza to be occupied, since Israel blockades it to minimize Hamas' ability to arm itself.

### REMOVE THE SETTLERS

A paper published two weeks ago by a major Israeli think-tank proposed a new unilateral solution in which settlers would be pulled out of most of the West Bank to create a situation more amenable to partition. The army would maintain its current positions until a better alternative emerged. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## Joe Biden reassures Ukraine it's a priority

U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden arrived in Ukraine's capital on Sunday for a visit aimed at pushing the country toward reforms and reassuring it the crisis in Syria is not overshadowing Washington's concerns about Ukraine.

Fighting between Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed separatists has diminished since September, but tensions remain high. Meanwhile, Western attention has turned largely toward the fight against Islamic extremism in Syria and Iraq.

Since Russia began airstrikes in Syria on Sept. 30, Ukrainian officials have worried their country's troubles would fade from view, especially if the West begins co-operating with Russia to fight ISIL.

Biden will reassure Ukraine that the U.S. will keep sanctions against Russia in place until full implementation of the Minsk Accords, the internationally mediated agreements between Ukraine and Russia on ending the conflict. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

N.Y.C.'S CENTRAL PARK

# Trump cashes in on name

Donald Trump, in New York's Central Park in 1986.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Donald Trump is arguably New York City's most famous resident, and he's made some of his money off the name of one of its most famous public landmarks: Central Park.

The Republican presidential candidate has trademarked the words "Central Park" on items including furniture, chandeliers and even key chains.

Records show Trump first put a trademark on the name in 1991, when the city's crime rate was near its height and Central Park had a less-than-glamorous reputation.

The trademark has expanded over the years and was most famously used on a line of Trump-branded furnishings, including tables, beds, lamps, pillows and picture frames.

A Trump spokesman declined to say how much money has been made off the trademark, which was first reported by the cable news channel NY1.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ST. LOUIS

# Blueprints of Disney theme park for sale

Imagine packing up the kids and heading for that dream vacation to a Disney theme park … in St. Louis.

It almost happened, and one of the few remnants of the Disney park that might have been goes on the auction block next week — 13 pages of 1963 blueprints spelling out plans for "Walt Disney's Riverfront Square" in St. Louis.

Money doomed the project. Disney was willing to pay the cost of rides and attractions but wanted St. Louis leaders to foot the bill for the building, and they refused.

Disney officially dropped out in 1965 and turned its attention to Florida.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## IN BRIEF

**Oil rig owner appeals for help in search for bodies**

Azerbaijan's state oil company SOCAR said Sunday that it was still searching for 29 workers missing after a fire swept through an offshore oil platform. But it has also asked the four other countries who share the Caspian Sea to search their own territorial waters for bodies of the oil workers.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

act now FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE
Climate change is about SOCIAL JUSTICE. A Church committed to defend and serve the poor must work to find solutions that will have its greatest impact on the poorest countries, communities and families
Laudato Si'
ON THE CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME

**Filipinos hold a poster with a picture of Pope Francis during the Climate Solidarity Prayer March in Manila last month.** Pope Francis' encyclical calling global warming a moral issue has energized faith groups to get involved. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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# Scientists seek help from higher power

CLIMATE TALKS

## Interfaith community calls for action on warming

The cold hard numbers of science haven't spurred the world to curb runaway global warming. So as climate negotiators struggle in Paris, some scientists who appealed to the rational brain are enlisting what many would consider a higher power: the majesty of faith.

It's not God versus science, but followers of God and science together trying to save humanity and the planet, they say.

Physicist John Schellnhuber, founder of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research in Germany, said he has been coming to these international talks for 11 years and essentially seen negotiators throw up their hands and say "sorry guys, we tried our best." And no one protested. But this time, with the power of Pope Francis' encyclical earlier this year calling global warming a moral issue and an even more energized interfaith community, Schellnhuber feels the world's faithful are watching and will hold world leaders accountable.

"They know they will be measured against the encyclical," Schellnhuber, a member of the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences, said Saturday at a Catholic Church event. Ever the scientist, Schellnhuber said on Saturday he hadn't seen any evidence yet during the first week of negotiations that this will happen, but he has faith it will.

In the first five days of climate negotiations, interfaith activists came, fasted, talked to media, buttonholed leaders and prayed. On Saturday night in a downtown Paris chapel, hundreds of people, many of them prostrated on the ground, sang and prayed for the climate negotiators and mostly for the world.

Faith "is much deeper" than science, said Caroline Bader of the Geneva-based Lutheran World Federation. And so are their numbers. Bader said interfaith leaders recently handed top United Nations negotiators a petition with 1.8 million signatures begging for meaningful climate action.

"The environment movement, which has primarily been a secular one, has realized that over the last 30 years or so it's not been that successful in achieving its goals," Joe Ware of Christian Aid wrote in an email from the Paris talks. "Increasingly it has looked to faith groups for help in mobilizing a broader movement of people calling for action on climate change. They are actually natural allies as almost all faiths have a theology of creation care at their heart."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## DRAFT

**Agreement reached**

Negotiators adopted a draft climate agreement Saturday that was cluttered with brackets and competing options. The 48-page draft agreement was sent to environment and foreign ministers who will work on it this week.

metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Monday, December 7, 2015

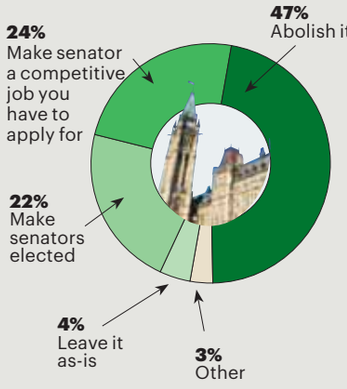
Metro MONDAY POLL

# Introducing: Senator You

**Visit metronews.ca every Friday to have your say.**

**The Trudeau government** is planning to transform the Senate into an independent, non-partisan chamber — possibly the biggest change to the scandal-plagued Upper House since Confederation. Rather than being appointed as a senator, you'll have to apply for it like any other job. But plenty of critics say it's time to ditch the Senate entirely, make senators elected or enact some other radical reform. We asked our readers if they're prepared to let go of the house of sober second thought, and what they would like to see on their representatives' resumes.

### 1 What should be done to reform the Senate?




- Senators should be chosen by the provinces.
- Make the Senate non-partisan, filled with the best Canadians.
- Have a vote for all or a portion of the seats.

### 2 What should the government do about diversity in the senate?

**33%** Make the selection process merit-based only
**24%** Mandate gender parity and ethnic diversity
**43%** Neither, let's ditch the senate entirely

SENATE SPEAKER GEORGE FUREY IS ESCORTED TO HIS NEW CHAIR

### 3 What qualities should a senator have?

**18%** Extensive experience in a professional field
**17%** A clean financial record
**15%** A pleasant and not-too-partisan manner
**13%** A record of community service
**6%** A certain age (i.e., older than 35)
**6%** Bilingualism
**3%** Government or public service experience
**20%** None of the above, abolish the senate
**2%** Other

- Minimum age should be 50.
- Member of the Order of Canada for at least five years.
- No political affiliations at all.

**WE ASKED** Metro readers

# Pay toilets are a lousy idea. Let my people go!

COLLINS' CAPITAL

**Steve Collins**

Amid budget deliberations this week, city council will also get an exciting glimpse into the future of public transportation, as staff outline options for…pay toilets at LRT stations.

Yes, that nadir in nickel-and-diming the desperate, invented in Victorian times and ubiquitous in North America until we recovered our decency in the mid-to-late 20th century, is coming back.

It's never too late to revive a lousy idea whose time has come and gone, and so in 2018, maybe you'll have the opportunity to pay a fee for a washroom you already own.

This fiscal-retentive outburst comes at the behest of Mayor Watson, chief tightwad of the finance committee, who last week expressed disappointment that staff had not looked into dinging every LRT passenger needing to "spend a penny" for an inflation-adjusted quarter or loonie.

The prospect of answering nature's collect call stems from the committee's recommendation to put two more washrooms on the system than strictly required by law.

Two washrooms, at Tunney's Pasture and Blair, are mandated by the Ontario Building Code, as are the three at Baseline, Bayshore and Place D'Orleans.

The others, at Bayview, where the Confederation Line meets the Trillium Line, and at Hurdman, where Confed meets the southern portion of the Transitway, are luxuries that we're told will cost $2.05 million to build and $13,000 a month to maintain.

So, we decide to go crazy and exceed the bare minimum standard for civilized public infrastructure, but instead of paying for it, now we're considering paywalls on privies — presumably throughout the system, since all facilities are to be standardized. For every simple courtesy, an equal and opposite chiselling.

The toilets will be located within the fare-paid areas of the stations, so we'll already be charging admission, then demanding a premium for entrance to the inner sanctum.

My immediate reaction was a disbelieving mortification.

But then I thought, hey, we're sitting on a gold mine. Here we are, shelling out like suckers to maintain free washrooms in all the city's library branches and recreation complexes, even at city hall, without exploiting their potential as revenue sources.

In the interests of fiscal prudence and consistency, should we not slap a lock on every city-owned stall, accepting either coins or a tap of your Presto card? The mayor, after all, doubts the potential of corporate assistance in this area.

"I don't want to sound flippant," he said last week, "but I don't think you're going to find anyone who is going to want to sponsor a toilet."

No doubt naming rights on individual stalls aren't a hot commodity, but I'm sure you've seen the occasional ad in a washroom. That's sponsorship. If we're really bent on passing on the costs of decent public services, there are ways to do it that don't hold people's bladders to ransom.

Should this toilet toll come to pass, and since the naming rights for the johns are going unclaimed, maybe we could memorialize our pioneering user-pay mayor: "Got a loonie? I have to use the Jim."

**Steve Collins** lives in Ottawa. He might also be the guy behind you on the bus, pretending not to notice you're reading this. Act casual.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

# 'Tis the season for hangry (hungry+ angry) travelling

Where are they?

The flight attendants? We took off 30 minutes ago — I just checked — and you know what that means? Food and beverage service!

One of them is serving first class — here comes the wine — and I'm fantasizing about pressing the call bell (which I never do) because I want to know: Are you going to feed the common people or not?

I already ate the sticky-sweet energy bar I brought for emergencies. But the situation is worse than I thought. You know what I really want? A double quarter-pounder with fries and a chocolate shake. This is travel, and desperate times call for fat, sugar and salt in abundance.

This non-TV flight took off from Washington-Dulles, the capital of Am'rica. And you know what should be easier than finding pee on an airport toilet seat? Finding the Golden Arches in the bloody U.S. of A.

It's my fault for booking a short stopover. I was thinking I'd save time, but I really just cemented my chance of starving to death before reaching my final destination. There was no way I could wait in line (another line!) behind 30 other starving people at the random burger joint that doesn't seem to do fast food, despite the fact that people trying to catch flights don't have time for your handcrafted patties and marinated bull!

So, I'm in the window seat and the lanky teenager next to me is already doing the mouth-gape head-back doze, one boney knee clearly on my side of the invisible leg divide, which means I can't get up to demand service from the men and women in blue (always blue). Except even in my fantasy, the outrage is downgraded to a passive-aggressive "Excuse me? But, I was just wondering? Does this flight offer food?" Being Canadian is so anticlimactic.

These tiny seats are the adult version of being strapped into a stroller, helplessly crying that you're hungry or thirsty.

Oh sure, not all flights are as desperate as this one. Once, I took two Valium tablets and had a few glasses of wine and floated all the way from London to Vancouver. If I didn't know better, I'd say Valium is the only way to travel, plus points for retro. I'd take some Valium right now.

OK, here they come. Slowly. I'm shaking my leg. My wallet's been out for ages. Time for some cheddar cheese spread on two crackers, and a gluten-free cookie. Survival.

**These tiny seats are the adult version of being strapped into a stroller.**

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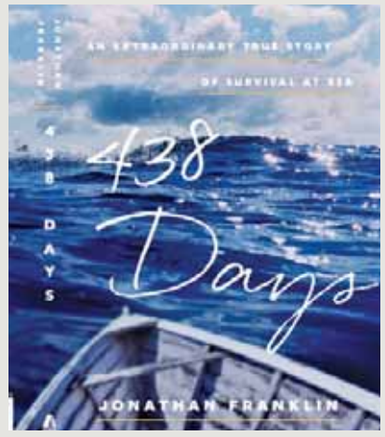
U2 play Paris tonight after initial dates were cancelled due to terrorist attacks in November

NEW BOOK

# Jonathan Franklin penned the true story of a man lost at sea for 438 days

**Sidney Cohen**
Metro | Canada




**Salvador Alvarenga spent 438 days adrift in the Pacific Ocean following a storm and the death of his crewmate.** GETTY IMAGES AND CONTRIBUTED

"Now is our time to suffer but we are not going to die."

This is what Salvador Alvarenga said to his crewmate as the two fisherman battled the gale-force winds and 18-foot waves that were pummelling their small, open-air fishing vessel off the Mexican coast.

That day in 2012 would be the first of 438 that Alvarenga would spend adrift in the Pacific Ocean.

His only companion succumbed to starvation four months in, but the ever-optimistic Alvarenga survived.

For 14 months, the resourceful seaman staved off thirst and hunger by drinking turtle blood and his own urine, and eating the raw flesh of birds that landed on his fibreglass motorboat.

He endured scorching sun, menacing sharks and unimaginable loneliness.

Alvarenga floated some 10,000 kilometres before washing up — bearded, dazed and legs atrophied — on an islet in Marshall Islands.

Jonathan Franklin, a Chile-based Guardian correspondent, documents Alvarenga's journey in his new book, 438 Days.

An American who travelled to Chile 17 years ago to report on the fall of Pinochet's dictatorship and never left, Franklin is no stranger to tales of extraordinary endurance.

The journalist also wrote 33 Men, a book about the 33 miners who were trapped inside a Chilean mine for more than two months. All 33 made it out alive.

Metro chatted with Franklin about researching his book and to find out what he's learned interviewing fascinating people with stories of survival.

**What is it that draws you to stories of survival?**

People have a lot more resilience than they ever realize, and I like to share that. A lot of people, when they're put up against the wall, find this inner strength. Fortunately most of us don't have to be out on a boat or at the bottom of a mine, but it shows the strength that a lot of us have inside.

**In researching 438 Days, did you go out on one of these small fishing boats?**

Yeah I did. It was pretty terrifying. It's like a big canoe. It seemed that it would be so easy to flip these things because they're long and narrow, like you catch a wave on the wrong side and you flip in a second. And we were only a half-mile off shore. These guys were going 100 miles (160 kilometres).

> **"It was terrible in a lot of ways, but there was a wild freedom to the whole experience as well.**
> 438 Days author Jonathan Franklin on Salvador Alvarenga's experience

**You've interviewed SWAT commandos, Timothy McVeigh, a Chilean student activist turned communist member of parliament. Has anyone really surprised you?**

I thought Tim McVeigh was going to be a raving lunatic and he was a super nice guy. This guy was on death row for blowing up a building — which he admitted to blowing up — killing 168 people. And he was really smart, really funny. You wanted him to be horrible, it would've been much easier if he was a monster, but he definitely was not a monster.

**438 Days has drawn comparisons to Life of Pi, the popular novel about survival at sea. Have you read that book?**

I deliberately didn't. I was afraid of accidental plagiarism. My daughter gave it to me for Christmas, and I was so excited. Then I thought, "I'll just write my book and then when my book's done I'll go back and read Life of Pi."

When I went into 438 Days, I thought it was like solitary confinement, so I was reading up about prisoners who were stuck in little prison cells. Then I realized what Alvarenga had was solitary unconfinement. He had a whole thriving — although dangerous — ecosystem, which in the end is probably more healthy than mean prison guards in the sterile environment of modern prisons.

It was terrible in a lot of ways, but there was a wild freedom to the whole experience as well.

TRENDS

# More urbanites cycling through winter

David Shellnutt is a hardcore winter cyclist but even he has his limits — after a 10-centimetre snowfall in Toronto last winter, he grudgingly decided to take the streetcar to work.

Then he saw the streetcar line-up, 40-people-deep. He went back to his apartment, strapped on his ski helmet and prepared to do battle with Mother Nature.

"You just had to plow through the snow like a luge run or a bobsled," he said. "I was giggling like a child the whole way. It was fun."

Cycling through city streets in the winter may seem crazy to some, but year-round cyclists say more people are joining their club. They also insist the icy cold ride is not only efficient, it's rewarding — as long as you know what you're in for.

For Laura Pin, the secret to surviving her jaw-dropping winter commute — 32 kilometres round trip thrice weekly — is layers. Lots and lots of layers.

The 29-year-old York University PhD student dons a balaclava, wool socks, long johns or leggings, ski goggles, good mittens, a helmet and a warm jacket, along with her day clothes underneath or over top.

Dedicated as she is, even Pin won't ride when roads are snowy or icy. "You don't have a margin for error," she said, recalling a time when she spun out after sliding on ice at an intersection.

Yvonne Bambrick, an urban cycling consultant and author of The Urban Cycling Suvival Guide said, "Riding throughout the winter is one of the best ways to chase the winter blues away," adding that she feels like a "badass" when she cycles in the winter months.

**Winter cycling tips from Jeremy Axon of Toronto's co-op bicycle shop Urbane Cyclist**

**1.** Take your time: Even if it looks like a clear day, there can be black ice.

**2.** Be assertive and go at your own pace: Try and keep traffic flowing but don't endanger yourself, advises Axon.

**3.** Braking: Beware icy roads. "You can stop your wheel from moving but that's not necessarily going to stop you from moving," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**David Shellnutt tries to ride his bicycle as much as he can in winter. His essential items include goggles, gloves, face covering and his rubber Chuck Taylor shoes.** TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

**Kids liken coding lessons to learning a new language.** HANDOUT COURTESY OF LADIES LEARNING CODE

# The girl code of the future

HOUR OF CODE

## Agency offers free lessons promoting digital literacy

**Kris Abel**
For Metro Canada

More than 4,000 free programming lessons are being held across Canada this week as part of a global initiative promoting digital literacy. Microsoft, Apple and Amazon are giving their support to educators registered at HourOfCode.com who have prepared one-hour lessons at local schools, community centres and libraries.

The focus in particular is on attracting girls. Star Wars characters Leia and Rey along with Frozen's Anna and Elsa star in the movement's programming lessons aimed at ages four and above.

Although women hold just nine to 15 per cent of tech jobs at leading companies, girls under 12 show a strong aptitude and interest for the science and technical skills involved. This has inspired an impressive community of volunteers and non-profit organizations who sense an opportunity to strengthen our society.

"What we're trying to do in our research is tackle really big problems and I think we need to take advantage of the creativity and innovation of our entire population," says professor Molly Shoichet, who hold's Canada research chair in tissue engineering. "We really can't depend upon just half the population to overcome these challenges."

Ladies Learning Code is one of the organizations participating this week that offer beginner-friendly, socially collaborative workshops across 22 Canadian cities year-round.

"We run one-day workshops for people who have never seen a line of code before," says co-executive director Melissa Sariffodeen.

"You'll create your own website from scratch and they are beautiful websites that you can launch."

Knowing how to create your own website or run an e-mail newsletter is useful in any career choice, but the lessons are popular for their sense of accomplishment.

"It's definitely the ability to create something that didn't exist," Sariffodeen explains, "this idea that you've taken something using your own hands, whether it's physical or digital, and you've created something that you can show people. That's what's addictive."

Every day this week YTV's The Zone will share what this is like by pairing their kid contributor Miley with LadiesLearningCode.com mentor Nat Cooper.

"All my friends were telling me about it saying 'oh, you should go try one of these code classes' and then I got to try it and that was pretty fun," Miley enthuses.

Throughout the television week and online lessons at YTV.com, Miley uses HTML and CSS to make a fun, holiday card.

"It was a bit of a challenge, but I like challenges so it was pretty fun to me," she explains. "I like learning languages and it's kind of like learning this cool, computer language, so it's pretty interesting."

Across Canada you'll find community makerspaces devoted not just to programming, but electronics, engineering and even robotics. They all share a similar approach to making their lessons inclusive.

"One thing that girls are interested in is mission-based tasks," explains Nicole Proulx, who organizes robot programming workshops at Robogals.org. "If you add a storyline, if you add a goal to it, that's something that girls are very interested in."

And encouraging girls to develop their creative problem-solving skills is a mission we can all share.

### DIGITAL

**HourOfCode.com/Code.org** Find free workshops and online lessons

**LadiesLearningCode.com** Year-round workshops for women and youth

**YTV.com/shows/the-zone** Learn with Miley this week

**MadeWithCode.com** Free coding lessons and projects from Google

**MakerCamp.com** Free electronics tutorials and projects for kids

WORK PARTIES

# 'Tis the season to face your social anxiety

For some, just thinking about making small talk at parties induces stomach-churning anxiety.

End-of-year parties are customary at many workplaces. But the festive fetes can be stressful for those who are averse to socializing, or feel uneasy about mingling with colleagues outside of the office. "People might be afraid they won't have anything to say. They may be worried about coming across as boring or incompetent or uninteresting in some way," says Martin Antony, author of The Shyness and Social Anxiety Workbook.

"They may be worried about saying the wrong thing or offending others or looking stupid, making a mistake of some kind."

As a result, they may avoid eye contact, talk quietly or stand far away from others, which may give off the impression they aren't interested in taking part, Antony says. In other cases, some who are excessively anxious may drink too much, he adds.

While those with severe social anxiety may be inclined to steer clear of parties, Antony says attending may be the antidote.

**The antidote to festive fear may be to just suck it up and go to the office party.** ISTOCK

"We know that exposure to feared situations is one of the most powerful tools that we have for overcoming fear," says Antony, a professor of psychology at Ryerson University.

"People learn the situation isn't as bad as they think it's going to be, and they also learn that these feared consequences don't come true."

Workopolis business editor Elizabeth Bromstein says efforts should be made to help shy employees feel at ease, perhaps by having them engage with their more outgoing colleagues.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# 4 ACTORS WHO MADE MEDIA HEADLINES THIS YEAR

Talented, moving, militant and in the media spotlight — for all these reasons and more, these four actresses landed in the news this year. AFP

## 1 Viola Davis: Queen of the small screen

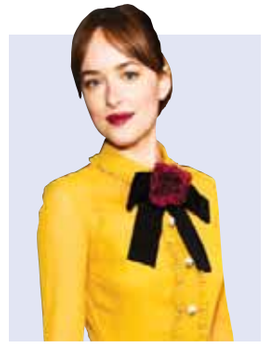
The star of the series How to Get Away With Murder caught the public's attention by becoming the first black woman to win an Emmy award for best actress in a drama series. The actress, who previously had a role in The Help, was very moved to have received the award, and was given a standing ovation and congratulated by peers such as Kerry Washington. In 2015, Viola Davis returned to the big screen with a role in Suicide Squad, a film slated for release in the summer of 2016 which will also star Will Smith, Jared Leto, Ben Affleck and Margot Robbie.

## 2 Alicia Vikander: Rising star

She is only 27, but Alicia Vikander has already conquered Hollywood. In 2015, this Swedish actress proved that she is a rising star by appearing in no less than five movies. First noticed for her performance as a psychologically complex robot in the science fiction thriller Ex Machina, she has subsequently taken on a variety of roles, including a historical biopic (Testament of Youth), a spy movie (The Man from U.N.C.L.E.) and an action drama (Burnt). The actress ended 2015 perfectly with the release of The Danish Girl, which could get her an Oscar nomination.

## 3 Patricia Arquette: The militant

In February, Patricia Arquette was applauded by many of her peers for her Best Supporting Actress Oscar acceptance speech. She spoke passionately about equality between men and women, especially in terms of wages, in the U.S. Her words got a particularly positive response from Meryl Streep and Jennifer Lopez, who were in the audience and are also known for speaking out on such issues.

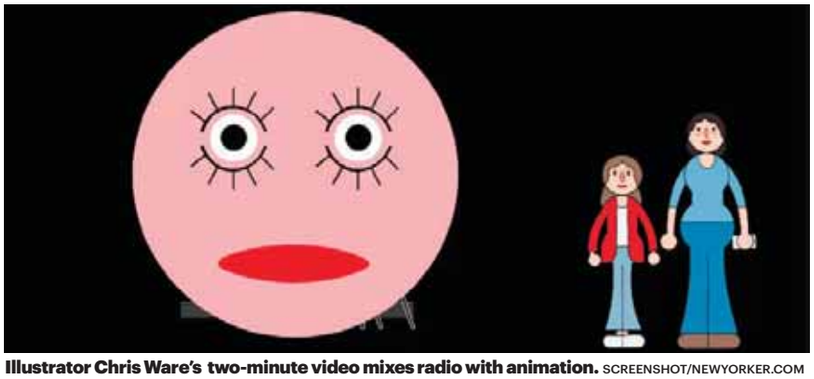


## 4 Dakota Johnson: The revelation

After taking small roles in 21 Jump Street and The Social Network, the daughter of Don Johnson and Melanie Griffith made her own name by accepting to play the ingénue Anastasia Steele in the movie adaptation of Fifty Shades of Grey. This role gave her unprecedented media exposure and international recognition, despite the criticisms of the film. In 2015, she has also starred in Black Mass alongside Johnny Depp.

JOHANNA SCHNELLER **WHAT I'M WATCHING**

# Better with makeup on?



**Illustrator Chris Ware's two-minute video mixes radio with animation.** SCREENSHOT/NEWYORKER.COM

**MIRROR (NewYorker.com)**
**THE ACCIDENTAL INSULT**

In spare, modern animation, a mother watches her 13-year-old daughter apply makeup for the first time, for a Halloween costume.

"She puts on mascara, a little eyeliner, some lip gloss," the mother's voice narrates. "I look at her, and then these words come out of my mouth: 'Wow, you look so much better.'" "Wow," a man replies, laughing. The mother laughs along, audibly abashed.

As she continues her story (her daughter shrugged off the diss), something lovely happens: the screen fills with little boxes, illustrating small but significant mother/daughter moments — first steps, sliding boards, school buses — as the daughter inches toward independence.

This two-minute video was the brainchild of illustrator Chris Ware, who draws many New Yorker covers. For the Dec. 7 issue, he asked Ira Glass, the host of the radio show This American Life, to provide him with an audio interview that he could animate; Glass offered writer Hanna Rosin's story about her daughter Noah; and the video was born.

Ware wanted, says an essay that accompanies the video, to "extend the emotion" of a magazine cover, and to see if enhancing a radio story with images lessened or enhanced its emotional power. And obviously, both The New Yorker and This American Life are keen to add visuals to their stuff, to grab more traction online.

They're not alone: The New York Times recently began releasing short, 3D video docs to accompany Sunday Times Magazine stories.

So far, these shorts are worth watching. The trend certainly is.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

EMERGENCY LANDING

# Safe arrival for Oscar-winning actor

A plane carrying actor Morgan Freeman and his pilot blew a tire on takeoff from a Mississippi airport and made an emergency landing in which its landing gear collapsed and the plane ran off the side of a runway, authorities said. No one was injured.

Mayor Bill Luckett of Clarksdale, a friend of the 78-year-old Oscar-winning actor, told The Associated Press that the twin-engine plane made what he described as a controlled forced landing before nightfall Saturday at an airport in Tunica after it had taken off from another airport in the area.

Freeman issued a statement saying he was heading to Texas from Mississippi aboard his plane to shoot for the series, The Story of God.

"Sometimes things don't go as planned and a tire blew on takeoff, which caused other problems," Freeman said in the statement sent by his publicist. "But thanks to my excellent pilot Jimmy Hobson we landed safely without a scratch."

"I cannot say the same about my plane," Freeman added in the statement, which didn't elaborate. "I appreciate the concern and prayers for our safety."

Kathleen Bergen, a spokeswoman with the Federal Aviation Administration, identified the plane as an Emivest SJ-30 aircraft and said the plane reported a "mechanical problem" after taking off from Fletcher Field in Lyon, a community just outside Clarksdale.

An FAA statement emailed by Bergen said the plane's original destination was Sugar Land near Houston, but that the aircraft diverted to the Tunica Municipal Airport in Mississippi where it made the emergency landing at 6:15 p.m. Saturday. She confirmed its main landing gear collapsed and that the plane went off the side of the runway after landing.

The Clarksdale mayor said another plane subsequently went to Tunica to pick up the actor, who has a home in Mississippi. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## GOSSIP BRIEFS

**New addition to Kardashian-West clan**

There's officially a new Kardashian to keep up with. Kim Kardashian and Kanye West welcomed their second child, a boy, Saturday in Los Angeles. If you subscribed to Kardashian's website or downloaded her app, you already knew that because she posted an excited, all-caps announcement over the weekend revealing that "mother and son are doing well."

And while West was in New York last week accepting an award for his shoe designs, he made it back to L.A. just in time to be there for the delivery. The baby was a bit early, though, as the original due date was reportedly Christmas. NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

The Canadian short-track speedskating team collected five medals on Sunday, led by Francois Hamelin's gold in the men's 500 metres

# Victory to earn trials berth makes Homan 'so happy'

CURLING

## Ottawan takes revenge for loss to Edmonton skip Sweeting

Rachel Homan earned the first direct-entry berth into the 2017 Canadian curling trials with an 8-7 win over Edmonton's Val Sweeting on Sunday in the Canada Cup women's final.

The winner of the Canadian trials, known as the Roar of the Rings, will determine the country's four-player teams for the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea.

"Unbelievable," Homan said. "I've never been so happy to win a tournament in my life.

"Getting to the trials is our No. 1 goal and to accomplish that this early, we tried really hard to get there, but you never know. In this sport anything can happen so we're excited to be able to clinch that win."

Ottawan Homan avenged a loss to Sweeting in the championship game of the 2014 Canada Cup, scoring a single in the 11th end to edge the Edmonton skip on Sunday. Sweeting tied the game with a single in the 10th end. She also scored three in the third, two in the fifth and one in the seventh. Homan scored a deuce each in the second and eighth ends and singles in the fourth, sixth, ninth and 11th.

"If I make my blank in seven we're in much better position to win that game," Sweeting said. "It wasn't bad that we took one there, we still had a two-point lead, but just a couple of half shots by me and we paid for it."

With her final shot in the eighth, Homan knocked two Sweeting stones off the four-foot to score two for a 6-6 tie. Homan cleaned house with her final shot in the 10th, leaving Sweeting to draw to the eight-foot to force an extra end.

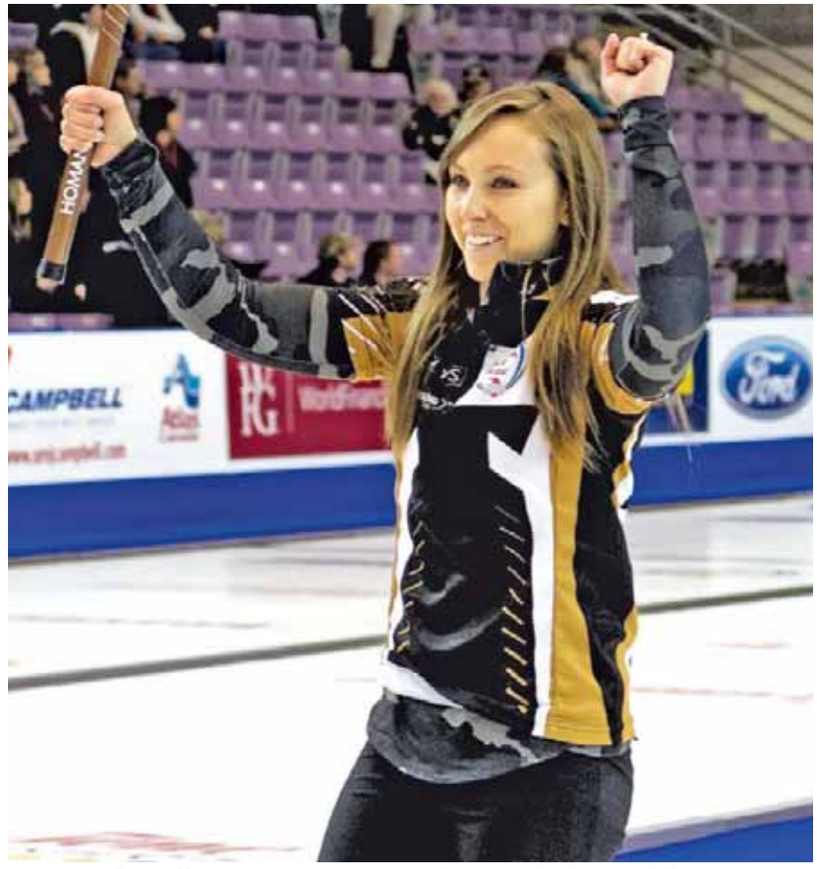
> **"If I make my blank in seven we're in much better position to win that game.**
> Val Sweeting

"They made some great shots and we had a couple of bad luck (shots), but that's OK," Homan said. "We stayed with it and thankfully we got a win in the extra (end)."

Homan's team of third Emma Miskew, second Joanne Courtney and lead Lisa Weagle picked up $24,000 for winning their sixth event of the season — the $14,000 top prize, plus $2,000 for each of their round-robin victories.

Later Sunday, defending champion Mike McEwen of Winnipeg played Calgary's Kevin Koe in the men's final.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



**Ottawa skip Rachel Homan** jubilates after defeating Edmonton's Val Sweeting 8-7 in an extra end to capture the Canada Cup in Grande Prarie, Alta., Sunday. MICHAEL BURNS/CURLING CANADA

## IN BRIEF

**Canada's Beveridge earns win at UCI track World Cup**

Calgary's Allison Beveridge won her first individual World Cup race in the omnium event at the UCI track World Cup on Sunday while Monique Sullivan, also from Calgary, raced her way to the bronze medal in the women's keirin.

In the ultimate race of the two-day event, Beveridge won four intermediate sprints and added three more points for a total of 23 points — and a cumulative total of 201 points — putting her atop the standings for gold. She edged reigning world champion Annette Edmondson of Australia, who finished with 188 points, and Jolien D'Hoore of Belgium with 182 points.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**First solo medal for McLean on speedskating circuit**

Winnipeg's Heather McLean won her first career individual medal on the long-track speedskating World Cup circuit on Sunday, taking home a bronze in the women's 500 metres on the last day of the third stage.

Alex Boisvert-Lacroix and Ivanie Blondin each won a silver respectively in the men's 500 and women's mass start to bring Canada's medal total to five in the weekend-long event. Gilmore Junio won gold and Alexandre St-Jean collected silver on Friday, in the first 500 event.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Carolina's Jonathan Stewart is tackled by Stephone Anthony and Hau'oli Kikaha of the Saints.** SEAN GARDNER/GETTY IMAGES

NFL

# Newton's quintuple keeps Panthers perfect

Cam Newton passed for five touchdowns, capped by a 15-yard scoring strike to Jerricho Cotchery with 1:05 to go, and the unbeaten Carolina Panthers clinched the NFC South with a 41-38 victory over the New Orleans Saints.

Carolina, the only remaining unbeaten team in the NFL, has the ninth 12-0 start in league history. Newton, who was 28 of 41 for 331 yards, twice had to lead the Panthers back from fourth-quarter deficits as the Saints (4-8) tried desperately to avoid a four-game losing streak. Jonathan Stewart had a 5-yard scoring run on a pitch from Newton.

**SUNDAY in New Orleans**

| PANTHERS | SAINTS |
|---|---|
| 41 | 38 |

Drew Brees passed for 282 yards and three touchdowns. Saints linebacker Stephone Anthony returned a fumble 31 yards for a score and also became the first NFL player to return a blocked extra-point kick for 2 points in NFL history. Meanwhile, Najee Goode scored on a blocked punt, Malcolm Jenkins returned an interception 99 yards for another touchdown and Philadelphia held on for an improbable 35-28 victory over New England.

Darren Sproles returned a punt 83 yards for the Eagles' second special teams touchdown, giving Philadelphia a 21-point lead before the Patriots came charging back.

Tom Brady threw for a touchdown to make it a two-score game and then, after an onside kick, ran it in from the 1 yard-line to cut it to seven points with 3 minutes left but the comeback fell short. Elsewhere, Russell Wilson threw for three touchdowns and rushed for another, Seattle's defence didn't allow a score, and the surging Seahawks won their third straight game with a 38-7 romp over Minnesota.

Doug Baldwin had two touchdowns and 94 yards receiving and Thomas Rawls rushed for 101 yards and a score as the Seahawks (7-5) did whatever they wanted with the ball against an injury-depleted Vikings defence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Expansion the hot topic but NHL will play it cool

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

## Sport's chiefs 'roll up sleeves' on Quebec City and Las Vegas

Development of the new Las Vegas Arena cost $375 million US, it is located in the heart of the Strip, between the New York New York and Monte Carlo casinos. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

It was during the NHL board of governors meeting a year ago that potential Las Vegas ownership got the green light to proceed with a season-ticket drive. That development came out of nowhere.

There remains no firm timeline on expansion, though this week's board meetings could take the process another step further. The executive committee is scheduled to meet before the big group Monday in Pebble Beach, Calif., to review expansion presentations from Las Vegas and Quebec City.

The earliest expansion could happen is the 2017-18 season, something deputy commissioner Bill Daly said last month was still possible even if the board doesn't vote this week. Such a vote to approve or decline expansion is not expected.

"We really haven't canvassed the ownership as a group," Daly said last month. "(The executive committee meeting will) be really the first time where we kind of roll up our sleeves and talk about the applications."

Quebecor and Bill Foley's Black Knight Sports & Entertainment presented to the board in September in New York. That came on the heels of the Hockey Vision Las Vegas ticket drive receiving 13,500 season-ticket deposits and the brand-new Videotron Centre in Quebec City selling out for a pre-season game between the Montreal Canadiens and Pittsburgh Penguins.

Quebecor showed the board a DVD of that successful night. Commissioner Gary Bettman said in September that it "wasn't a bad thing that the building was test-driven."

"Were we surprised that it was sold out? Absolutely not. I could've told you that before they did it," Bettman said. "Unlike Vegas, where they ran a season-ticket drive because people really questioned whether there was interest in professional sports in a unique market like that, nobody had any doubt that there was fan interest in Quebec City."

The current alignment of 16 teams in the Eastern Conference and 14 in the West and the sagging Canadian dollar are ones that could hamper Quebecor's efforts.

If the NHL opts to expand by one or two teams, there's also the matter of splitting revenue 31 or 32 ways, something Bettman and Daly brought up last month. Their point was that even though each new team could bring expansion fees of US$500 million or higher, owners must consider the long-term implications against the one-time cash windfall.

One thing that's clear is the league is in no rush to make the decision.

"This is an important business decision, and it doesn't get governed by PR or politics or pressures," Bettman said. "You've got to make a decision for the right reasons."

Expansion is one of many topics on the docket for this meeting, which will also include an updates on business and player safety, an early projection of the 2016-17 salary cap and the controversial executive compensation policy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**13,500**

**Hockey Vision Las Vegas has secured 13,500 season ticket deposits.**

> **"This is an important decision and it doesn't get governed by PR or politics. You've got to make a decision for the right reason.**
>
> Gary Bettman, NHL commissioner

## IN BRIEF

**Prust hit with $5,000 fine for spearing Marchand**

Vancouver Canucks forward Brandon Prust was fined $5,000 by the NHL on Sunday for spearing Boston Bruins forward Brad Marchand on Saturday night.

Prust was assessed a 10-minute misconduct penalty for the incident in the third period of the Bruins' 4-0 victory in Vancouver.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Hamstring issue sidelines Ott for three months**

St. Louis Blues forward Steve Ott will be sidelined for three months with a hamstring injury after he was hurt in the first period of a loss to Toronto on Saturday. The team said on its website Sunday that Ott would undergo surgery on both hamstrings next week.

Ott was hurt when he missed a check on Maple Leafs defenceman Dion Phaneuf and did the splits into the boards. In 21 games, Ott has two assists and 34 penalty minutes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Blackhawks bring back Bickford from AHL spell**

The Blackhawks have recalled forward Bryan Bickell from Rockford of the American Hockey League. The physical winger was sent down Nov. 2 after he had no points in his first seven games of the season with Chicago.

The 29-year-old Bickell had seven goals and seven assists in 12 games with the IceHogs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Go to metronews.ca for coverage of the Senators game against the New York Rangers on Sunday night.**

PGA TOUR GOLF

## Bubba blows away the field at Albany

Bubba Watson wasn't even planning to play in the Hero World Challenge. He left no doubt Sunday who was going to win.

With two quick birdies, Watson was never seriously challenged at Albany Golf Club and sailed home to a 6-under 66 for a three-shot victory over Patrick Reed.

Watson didn't make a bogey all weekend until the final hole, and by then it didn't matter except in the record book. He finished at 25-under 263, missing by one shot the tournament record set last year by a red-hot Jordan Spieth at Isleworth.

It was the second victory this year for Watson, who will finish the year at No. 4 in the world. Runner-up Reed also had a 66.

England's Justin Rose, who lives at Albany, set the course record with a sizzling 10-under 62 Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lindsey Vonn celebrates her win in the women's World Cup Super-G in Lake Louise, Sunday. THE CANADIAN PRESS/JEFF MCINTOSH

SKIING

## Super Vonn sweeps Lake Louise clean

Lindsey Vonn won a super-G race Sunday to complete a sweep of World Cup races at Lake Louise for the third time in her career.

The American finished in a time of 1 minute, 19.79 seconds, beating Tamara Tippler of Austria by 1.32 seconds. The margin of victory was the largest in a women's super-G since 1997, according to information provided by the U.S. Ski Team. Another Austrian, Cornelia Huetter, was third.

"Whenever you win, period, let alone by over a second, it definitely gives you that little bit extra boost of confidence," said Vonn, who has 70 career World Cup victories. "I'm feeling great, and I know my super-G is good —my downhill is pretty good — so I feel like I'm in a good place for the next couple races."

The U.S. placed four racers in the top 20, including Laurenne Ross at 12th.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## RECIPE Chicken Noodle Soup

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**
For Metro Canada

It's not just grandmas who will tell you that a bowl of chicken noodle soup will fight off a cold — science has proved it! Plus, there's nothing more comforting on a cold night.

**Ready in**
Prep time: 30 minutes
**Serves 8**

**Ingredients**
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 carrots, diced
- 2 celery stalks, diced
- 1 Tbsp thyme (fresh or dried)
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 x 940 ml containers low-sodium chicken stock
- 250g noodles
- 1 1/2 cup cooked chicken (poached or use leftovers)
- Salt and pepper to taste

**Directions**

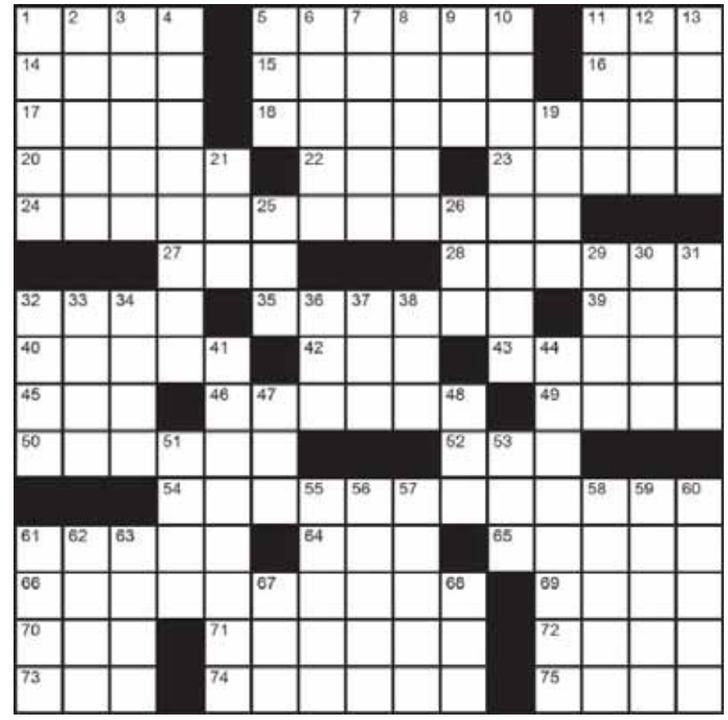
**1.** In a large pot, sauté onion, garlic, carrots, celery, thyme and bay leaf in olive oil over medium heat until soft, about 6 minutes.

**2.** Add stock and bring to a simmer. Add noodles until just cooked. Add chicken. Check for seasoning.

FOR MORE MEAL IDEAS, VISIT SWEETPOTATOCHRONICLES.COM

## CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



**ACROSS**
1. Celebrated caped Count, curtly
5. 'The Father of Independent India', Mahatma __ (b.1869 - d.1948)
11. Carrie Underwood honour, e.g.
14. Ontario's Casino __
15. Treasures
16. Rowboat steerer
17. 'U' of ICU
18. Their crafts are celebrated at the Bata museum in Toronto
20. Inklings
22. "Notes __ _ Scandal" (2006)
23. Overly feast
24. Perturbed
27. Select
28. Firstborn
32. Ointment
35. Backpackers' lodging
39. Mr. Tolstoy
40. Accused's defence
42. Teensy
43. Ore evaluation
45. Zodiac species
46. Handle
49. Checks for accuracy
50. Had heavenly hopes
52. Alphabetic trio
54. Canadian groups The Diamonds or The Crewcuts: 2 wds.
61. One-of-some going up/down
64. Lionel Richie's "Stuck on __"
65. Gloria Bunker's mother
66. __ nose (Actor's looks-changer)
69. Pace
70. Diving bird variety
71. __ Teagarden (Fictional librarian/sleuth of murder mysteries)
72. Atomic Number 92, for short
73. "Sure thing."
74. Smaller in importance
75. Graduate

**DOWN**
1. Stonehenge ritualist
2. The Amazing __ (Toronto-born magician/skeptic)
3. Vivienne's friends
4. Burial chamber beneath the city
5. Vehicle's energizer
6. Type of specific-purpose committee 2 wds.
7. Peter of Herman's Hermits
8. Gloom
9. Tailoring alteration site
10. Spanish queen called 'The Catholic' (b.1451 - d.1504) who was a backer of explorer Christopher Columbus
11. Filmmaker brothers Joel or Ethan
12. Ms. Helgenberger
13. "Come on, Dover, move yer bloomin' __!" - Eliza goading a racehorse in "My Fair Lady" (1964)
19. Scottish captain of 17th-century seas
21. Soak
25. __ degree
26. Gridiron support
29. "So what __ is new?"
30. Flyer's spot
31. Santa's sack stash
32. Poet
33. Axillary
34. 'L' of household cleaning brand CLR
36. Newman's __ (Salad dressing brand)
37. Home of baseball's Mariners, briefly
38. Young sheep
41. Legendarily long living/lasting
44. __ Islands (Arctic Ocean archipelago in Nunavut)
47. Airport tower [acronym]
48. French coin of yore
51. Notice: French
53. "Lost" star, Daniel __ Kim
55. __ Rock (Oz postcard photo)
56. Tennyson poem, The __-Eaters
57. About 25 sheets of paper
58. Lady's crown
59. Singing legend Ms. James'
60. Afterwardses
61. __ or neuter
62. Loyal
63. Says it's hunky-dory
67. Tint
68. Ford fabrication

## IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

**Aries** March 21 - April 20
There will be a certain amount of confusion this week, and maybe deliberate deception as well. Part of you instinctively knows the answers so listen to it you won't go far wrong.

**Taurus** April 21 - May 21
You seem to be immensely popular, most likely due to the influence of Venus moving through the relationship area of your chart. So long as you don't take liberties others will do almost anything for you.

**Gemini** May 22 - June 21
Your mind is focused on personal issues and until you have got them sorted out you won't be able to give the professional side of your life the attention it requires.

**Cancer** June 22 - July 23
Cosmic activity in your fellow Water sign of Scorpio gives you the kind of can-do attitude that will get jobs done. But you find time to remind loved ones how much you care.

**Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23
Don't let feelings get in the way of facts today. The Moon's eclipse of Venus in one of the more emotional areas of your chart means you won't be thinking straight, so keep your opinions to yourself.

**Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Someone you meet on your travels could have an unexpected effect on your emotions. Be careful how you behave — what seems like a fling to you may be taken seriously by them.

**Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Money and status may be important to you but no matter how successful you are the most important things in life are your relationships. You are rich in love and that's what counts.

**Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Don't let anything stop you from having fun. Others may say you're being irresponsible but the more you let your hair down now the more work you will get done later.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
It may seem as if the most interesting events are taking place elsewhere but is that true or is it just that you fear being left out? Don't worry. You will find the balance between getting work done and having fun.

**Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You can afford to be generous as the new week begins, especially when dealing with people who have not been as fortunate as you. Remember to try not to judge others too harshly.

**Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If someone tries to abuse their authority today you must not let them get away with it. Find ways to let them see that they have let themselves down. Shame is a powerful weapon.

**Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20
Strike out in a new direction. Don't think about it or you will come up with a thousand reasons for not moving forward. Just act and deal with the consequences later.

## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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## FRIDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers.

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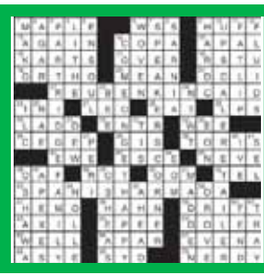

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| 9 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 1 | 4 |
| 3 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 7 |
| 2 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 3 |
| 4 | 7 | 5 | 8 | 9 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 1 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 9 |
| 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 8 |

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